

LEPC/DES/E-9-1-1
MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday, September 1, 2021
Columbus Fire Hall
944 E Pike Ave, Columbus, MT 59019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Timm, Nick Jacobs, Travis Hansen, Rich Cowger, Terry Brumfield, Sue Leuthold, Rylan Williams, **Bill Rash**, Bill Pronovost, Marlo Pronovost, Kevin Ray, Charity Stephens, Shane Anderson, Kevin Mitchum, Mark Crago, Charlie Hanson, Chip Kem, Randy Smith, Natasha Sailer, Steph Ray, Brendan Wiltshire, Maureen Wiltshire

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Pledge to the Flag
- b. Introductions
- c. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Natasha motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Randy seconded. Motion passed.

II. DES/FIRE WARDEN

- a. Maureen - Fire season stage 2 fire restrictions remain in place. Rich stated that resource wise the State is still not in good shape, as resources remain stretched thin throughout the Northwest.

III. E-9-1-1

- a. No update

IV. LEPC

- a. Introduction of two new LEPC members: Shane Anderson, from Sibanye Stillwater Mine, replacing Hal Wentz. Charity Stephens stated that Amanda Ferser could not make it this morning.

V. ROAD NAMES

- a. Hillside Road needs to be changed to Hillside Drive to be consistent with the County Rural Addressing Policy. Brendan moved to change Hillside Road to Hillside Drive. Kevin Mitchum seconded. Motion passed.
- b. Magnus Johnson Lane road change request. The current road name is Walking Horse Lane and the applicant has requested the road name be changed to Magnus Johnson Lane based on his relevancy as a historical county figure. Penny Redli provided a biography on Magnus Johnson which was provided to the LEPC committee for consideration. This road is located across from Nitche Rd in

Absarokee. There are two houses on this road. Brendan provided a brief overview of Magnus Johnson to the committee. Brendan then moved to approve the road name change. Natasha seconded. Motion passed.

VI. PHECP

- a. Natasha- COVID numbers are increasing and she is seeing breakthrough cases of vaccinated individuals. Vaccinated people are not having as severe symptoms. As of today, there are approximately 12 breakthrough cases in the county. Reminder that Fridays are vaccine days at the clinic. Darla, who is the public health nurse is returning to Billings Clinic main campus. Public Health will be staffed by Natasha, plus one other nurse and Leslie will be assisting in public health if there is a need for more people. Five individuals from Stillwater County are hospitalized. There are approximately 25-30 positive cases in the county at any given time. Natasha stated that this is the first time there are seeing 100% of the new cases being the Delta variant. Certain swabs for COVID in larger urban areas are required to send in all of their samples such as Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, etc. Local area assisted living facilities are continuing testing methods and if there is an outbreak at long term care facilities, they will have variant testing. There is still a recommended quarantine of 10 days from symptom onset. If you are vaccinated wear a mask while in public. The third dose of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine is now available, however, the booster hasn't had full FDA approval. A booster shot of Pfizer or Moderna is recommended after 8 months of receiving the second dose. FDA is having a hard time with the booster because they don't know the benefit of the third shot. There has been an increase in vaccinations since the Delta variant. Approximately 39% of the county has been vaccinated. Children 12 and over are now eligible for vaccination which resulted in a lower county vaccination rate based on population. The Alpha and Bravo variant have been taken over by the Delta variant. The protein spike is what is changing on the virus. There are 4 proven medications that work but does not heal patients. The medical community is trying to get the right treatment course in place. New cases are mostly unvaccinated individuals. The number of people that have been re-infected in the county is approximately 4 cases and these were people who were unvaccinated. Recommend shots for pregnant women as the shot passes immunity to baby, however, defer this recommendation to your doctor.
- b. Maureen - County has masks available if needed.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- a. Motion to appoint Rylan (Nye) Sue (Molt) to Communications Committee. Motion made by Maureen seconded by Natasha. Motion passed.

VIII. FUTURE EXERCISES

- a. Bill stated this group will meet after this meeting.

IX. OTHER

- a. Charlie stated during the last COVID outbreak the State hosted a cache of PPE that was made available to the health care industries. Unless the federal government comes up with additional money this program will go away, which means requesting agencies will not be getting additional supplies of PPE. This could really affect long term care facilities. Natasha has a good local network and stockpile for local requests of PPE. She mentioned it is getting more difficult to obtain surgical masks (N95s) as well as disposable gowns, however, the County has a significant supply. If ambulance crews need more PPE request the PPE from Natasha. Natasha noted that SIMMS has washable gowns.
- b. Charlie mentioned that the national guard is not ramped up to provide assistance to vaccination and testing clinics and that the National Guard is being trained for fire duty. The Billings Gazette article that stated the Billings Clinic was getting National Guard assistance for COVID is not correct information.
- c. Kevin stated the Mine is hiring.
- d. Charity noted they hiring medics and EMTs. Would like to provide 24 hr. medical response.
- e. Bill Rash noted that victim assistance and emergency responder rehab at no cost to AHJs. Call and they will bring a rehab unit to the community. Red Cross is stretched thin so please feel free to utilize this resource. Call 1-800 BoardUp. There is no charge to the community and the truck is stocked and ready to assist.

X. ADJOURN

- a. Randy moved to adjourn, Nastasha seconded. Meeting adjourned.